

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 NEA-14

DRC-01 /109 W

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R 161525Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3402

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS GR

SUBJ: GEORGE MAVROS RELEASED

REF ATHENS 1631 AND ATHENS 2833

1. CENTER UNION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS WAS RELEASED FROM YIAROS ISLAND DETENTION CAMP MAY 15 AFTER TWO MONTHS IMPRISONMENT. MAVROS, WHO ARRIVED ATHENS EARLY HOURS OF MAY 16 ON REGULAR ISLAND STEAMER IN COMPANY OF HIS WIFE AND BROTHER, WAS WELCOMED AT PIER BY GATHERING OF ABOUT 40 FRIENDS AND NUMEROUS POLICE. ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT MAVROS, WHO LOOKED TIRED AND CONSIDERABLY THINNER, SAID HE MIGHT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT FOLLOWING A PRESUMED OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RELEASE. GOG AS YET HAS MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT AND OFFICIALS IN MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE AND INTERIOR HAVE PARRIED EMBASSY QUERIES ON MAVROS' LEGAL STATUS NOW THAT HE HAS BEEN FREED.

2. NOTE: COUNCIL OF STATE WAS SCHEDULED TO HEAR MAVROS' APPEAL (ATHENS 2833) ON JUNE 11 CONTESTING CONSTITUTIONALITY OF HIS DEPORTATION TO YIAROS, REPORTEDLY FOR ONE YEAR SENTENCE. (AS DEPARTMENT RECALLS MAVROS WAS ARRESTED MARCH 16 SHORTLY AFTER ISSUING STATEMENT SUPPORTING

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UK DECISION TO CANCEL RN SHIP VISITS TO GREECE.) SOME

SOURCES SPECULATE GOG MAY ISSUE STATEMENT ANNOUNCING GROUNDS FOR RELEASE WAS MAVROS' ILL HEALTH AND REMOVE JUNE 11 APPEAL FROM DOCKET OF COUNCIL OF STATE. GOG MAY HAVE ANTICIPATED THAT TRIAL OF ONE OF NATION'S LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES COULD HAVE PROVOKED UNDERSIRABLE CONSEQUENCE.

3. COMMENT: MAVROS' RELEASE REMOVES FROM REGIME'S COLLECTION OF VULNERABILITIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS A MAJOR FOCUS OF CRITICISM. EMBASSY REPEATEDLY HAS QUERIED GOG OFFICIALS PRIVATELY ON MAVROS' DETENTION, AND SENIOR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS HIMSELF, APPARENTLY ACCEPTED POSITION THAT IMPRISONMENT OF CENTER UNION'S TITULAR LEADER WAS UNDERSIRABLE. TASCA

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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